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TRANSCEND

The Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Newsletter **January / February 2004**

Improving OUR Club *by Heather*

The biggest problem I see with the SGA is the socials are too boring. We do the same things month in and month out. I should know I have been a member for over 8 years and the president last year.

Every year a big deal is made out of electing a board. There are five positions on the board (President, Treasure, Secretary, News Letter Editor or Media and Member at Large.)

In my opinion there is a positions, that we don't have, that is more important than all the rest combined. I would call this position "Social Director". We used to have social hostesses but that is not what I am talking about.

What the SGA needs is someone or a few people to organize events for our socials. Some examples might be, a makeup artists to come and give a bunch of girls make overs and sell supplies. Another example may be to get a psychologist to come and give a presentation.

There is one thing that should always be kept in mind when planning a social. Our group is made up of both cross dressers and transsexuals. Any event should try to be planned so that it appeals to all members. Our last couple of guest speakers were geared towards only transsexuals.

I myself would be willing to plan a social event once or twice a year. If we made the Lambda Center Socials the time and place when we do these special events we would just have to do 12 a year. Several members could get together to plan a particular social. We should be able to put 12 events together per year. What do you all think?

Winter is here – time to make your appointment for the new fall colors and some excellent SKIN CARE

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SGA Calendar

December 13, 7pm – Lambda Center Potluck
December 27, 7pm – Club 21
January 10, 7pm – Lambda Center Potluck
January 24, 7pm – Hamburger Mary's
February 14, 7pm – Lambda Center Potluck: Elections!
February 28, 7pm – Hamburger Mary's

Club Elections

Its that time of the year again to start thinking about club elections. Nominations are now being accepted for our five board positions. Elections will be held during the club annual meeting, defined as the first meeting in February.

Our club bylaws currently define five positions on the SGA Board: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Multimedia Member, and At-large member. Though the roles and responsibilities of the first three may be obvious, the latter two need a tad more explanation. The multimedia member is defined as the person who does both the newsletter and web page! The "At Large" member, on the other hand, is not given any specific responsibilities. This year, we will hold nominations for these five titles.

One of the items that Heather so graciously points out is that these responsibilities are not necessarily equally weighted. Though the Chairperson can keep quite busy, the Multimedia member definition could mean a full time job, while the Secretary and At Large member have very little to do. One suggestion for the next board is to do is assess this work load and make a recommendation to the club for a more distributed approach. One possible approach would be to have a separate person slated for the newsletter than the website, have a dedicated social coordinator, and combine the role of the secretary and treasurer (which I've seen in many organizations). That would result the following five positions: Chairperson, Secretatary/Treasuruer, Web mistress, Newsletter Editor, and Social Coordinator.

The election process for our club is quite simple. Nominations for election are taken at any time between January 1st and election day (though it is fine if nominations are made prior to January 1st). You can nominate yourself or others. On election night, we'll call for any remaining nominations, then proceed to a vote. The vote is simply done as a block: the girls with the top five votes are put on the board (note: members who get only 1 or 2 votes still get onto the board because of this). Then, of those five girls, the one with the most votes picks first, second most votes picks second, etc.

Club elections are ***YOUR*** chance to make a difference. Remember that this is ***YOUR*** club! Want to get more involved? Want to help make a difference for other girls? Want a chance for some leadership experience? Run for the club board! Remember: you get out of the club what you put into it!

Sacramento Gender Association
Blue Rose Chapter

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For information, phone (916) 364-7212. Calls are often answered midway through the message. The Sacramento (trans) Gender Association (SGA) is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational and recreational needs of the transgendered (TG) community, including CD, TV, TS, their spouses, significant others, family, and TG friendly professionals. Membership is open to everyone age 18 or older regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

SGA Board of Roles

Chairperson.....Briana
Treasurer.....Trina
Web-mistress.....Renee
Secretary.....Trina
Socials .....Briana

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SIZE MONTHLY/YEARLY
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All members and professionals supporting the TG community are encouraged to submit articles and photos for publication. **Deadline is the 20th of the month** prior to the next month's issue. Please submit hard copy typewritten or clearly printed. Articles can be sent by e-mail at **brianasmith77@yahoo.com**. Submissions may also be provided on 3.5 computer disc or CD; most formats are readable. *Transcend* requests one time publication rights. All other rights remain with the author/contributor. The content of *Transcend* reflects the opinion of the author/ contributor and does not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the SGA board or its members. Except where specifically noted, material herein may be reprinted with proper acknowledgment.

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Briana Says...

Hi Girls!

Wow, what a year we've gone through. 2003 is just about over, and my term is nearing a close.

This year we've had some great improvements in our website with a brand new face. The site has been updated once or twice a month almost every month! All of our events have been posted there, with clear directions. I would like to thank Renee for all of her hard work this last year.

Our traditional lambda center potlucks, and dinners out have continued through the year. Many of these socials have seen a couple new girls show up each time. I'd like to thank all of our current members for showing them such a good time, and I hope those new members come back to more meetings.

The other significant improvement was moving our club email distribution list over to the Yahoo! Groups service. When I first moved the list over to this service, there were 40 entries. The current count today is 74! Can you believe how many people from our website improvements and word of mouth have showed interest in joining our club? This distribution has proved very fruitful for our club, as members now not only get meeting reminders, but learn about other events in the local area, meet old friends, look for room mates, and are now starting to coordinate upcoming events!

The only item that I regret throughout the year was my attendance. As I am married, and have kids, and quite a lot of family which lives close by, along with a demanding job, I have not been able to attend as many socials that I would have liked. As a result, I do not plan to be on the board next year. I will be at the election night to help assemble our next club board, and will help train the next board during the remainder of February.

Yours in Service,
Briana

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Coordinating a Successful Lambda Center Social

By Heather

Get together with a friend or two and tell Brianna or Trina that you want to plan a special event at the Lambda Center Social or some other night. Make sure to make it a month or two from now so that the rest of the SGA can find out about your event from the newsletter.

Whittnie once told me that the main purpose of the newsletter was to promote up coming events and show the girls that did not attend the last social event what they had missed out on. With the advent of the internet the newsletter is not as important as it used to be but it is still very important to get the word out. If we start to have special events every month then the newsletter really needs to get out every month. Since the SGA has not really been doing anything the newsletter coming out every other month has been adequate. I myself am going to plan something fun for the LAMBDA CENTER SOCIAL in February. What it will be yet I don't know. I will keep you posted.

Come on girls pick a night and plan something. It could be a costume party at the LAMBDA CENTER with a theme. We could give out prizes for the best costume. Tell Trina how much you spent and any donations at the door or raffle could be used to pay back those who planned the event. Not that you have to spend any of your own money if you don't want too.

We could have a clothing swap night. Everyone brings a few things and we all trade. Or if you have a favorite thrift store contact them and see if we could come after hours on a Saturday night and shop. If we all just planned one event a year we would have FUN EVENTS coming out our ears. Remember you don't have to do it alone. Get a group of your friends and all do it together. Spread the word. Talk to any other girls that you know that aren't on this yahoo group about planning something. Once things get going, I think they are going to snowball and we are going to have so much fun everyone will want to plan something. On the Yahoo Group website database I made a sign up sheet so we all could sign up to plan things and keep track of who was going to do what and when.

I signed up already, so can you.

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Reflecting on the Life of Gwen Araujo

By Francie

Last night, Johanna, Trina and I attended the service at Newark Memorial High School commemorating the passage of one year since the torturous and brutal slaying of 17 year old Gwen Araujo at the hands of 4 acquaintances on October 3, 2002. I feel a special closeness to Gwen because both she and I are Latina and transgendered. Looking at her picture harkens back fond memories of my youth and makes me ponder about how alike and how different we are. Gwen had the courage to be genuinely herself to her mother, family and friends and earned their true love. She chose to engage and live her real life as she knew how braving the scorn and ridicule she suffered from those who would not understand her, even rejection from her church. Finally at the hands of such as these she paid the ultimate price of her life.

At that age I lacked Gwen's courage, and for fear of rejection I hid my true self from family and friends. I forced myself to externally conform to social expectations and mindlessly echoed the sentiments and phobic prejudices promulgated by the church establishment. In the eyes of many, I appeared quite successful as a respectable and accomplished medical professional serving children and youth. But this was a mere shadow of a life, full of lies, fear of discovery and ultimately despair. After a very dark period and near brushes with death by my own hand, I finally came to a reckoning and acceptance of myself and a spiritual reconciliation with the help of Dr. Rebecca Allison (http://www.drbecky.com) in the summer of 2002. The following months for me were the start of deep soul-searching and a cautious and gradual removal of the facade. In the process of admitting the lies, I have lost the respect of some very dear people (including my mother) who valued the facade, but I have for the first time experienced the true friendship of those who value us for who we really are.

The news of Gwen Araujo's tragedy in October, 2002, touched me very deeply. At once I admired her for her being so honest about herself at such a young age, but I was also deeply impressed with the urgency and need of our youth to be allowed to be themselves without fear and danger. Gwen's example motivated me to learn more about transgendered youth in order to serve them in my medical profession, and later to collaborate with Jaime and Dee in establishing save Tyouth, an on-line group to support the spiritual interests of our transgendered youth.

I shed my tears for the loss of Gwen, for the grief her family showed last night and for the grief of all of us who have long suffered pain from uncaring individuals. And now I thank Gwen for her inspiration to all of us to a commit to working for a more loving and accepting world for all.

TRINA'S VITUPERATION II

Is SGA NEEDED? Yes! We also need ***you*** as a board member. Unless, of course, you've had enough of gender groups, in which case I will continue the group until funds and SGA expire.

Can SGA SURVIVE as a TV, TG, TS organization? Yes, but only if we can elect a new board. To nominate a candidate or to volunteer, call trina on the hotline at 916 364-7212 or communicate with Briana by e-mail.

Our elections will be held at the Lambda Community Center. The date is February 14, 2003. We will be setting up at 6:30 PM.

Our Christmas party was attended by more than thirty members and guest. Were you there? The last couple of months, we have moved the **meeting time to 6:30 to 9:00 PM**, to allow the front desk volunteer to go home on time (it is his responsibility to lock up). However, Cafe Lambda is being revitalized and we are welcome to stay. But we must be cleaned up and **ready to leave at nine!**

I received this newsletter as a three pager this last week. Thus this column is added. If you find it more readable keep it in mind for the next editor.

BE AT THE LAMBDA CENTER by 7 PM!!!!

love

trina

your servant.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

this column could have been yours.

contributions can be more than monetary.

At this time, only trina has been nominated for the new board. 12/19/03